

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8532

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, ET (ABEBE GUANGUL)

SUBJECT: FY 75 IV PROGRAM: MAJOR ABEBE GUANGUL - STATUS REPORT  
AND FURTHER INFORMATION RE GRANTEE AND PROGRAM

REF: ADDIS 11233

1. BACKGROUND: MAJOR ABEBE WAS EARLIER SUBMITTED AS ALTERNATE AND  
THEN GIVEN GRANT UNDER FY-75 ALLOCATION (DATED JULY 10, 1974).

CURRENT TRAVEL AVAILABILITY NOW LEADS TO SUBMISSION FURTHER  
BIO-DATA, GRANT JUSTIFICATION, AND PROGRAM DETAILS.

2. MAJOR ABEBE ASSURES POST THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WILL  
ALLOW HIM TO TRAVEL USA BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, AND PERHAPS BEFORE  
JUNE 1.

3. BIO-DATA: ABEBE GUANGUL, BORN MAY 4, 1934 IN SHOA (ETHIOPIA);  
PRESENTLY COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS; HOLDS LLB, ADDIS ABABA  
UNIVERSITY (1966); HAS TRAVELLED TO YUGOSLAVIA, EGLAND;  
SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY; MARRIED, THREE CHILDREN; HAS SPECIAL  
INTERESTS IN VISITING PENSION INSTITUTIONS AND JUDICIAL IN-  
STITUTIONS, SIGHT-SEEING, THE THEATER, ETC.

4. GRANT JUSTIFICATION: MAJOR ABEBE NOW HEADING TOP-LEVEL TASK  
FORCE TO PLAN AND ESTABLISH A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR  
ETHIOPIA. SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA FEELS URGENT NEED TO ESTABLISH  
SOME FORM OF GENERAL WELFARE SYSTEM AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE  
PENSIONS FOR EMPLOYEES OF NEWLY NATIONALIZED BUSINESSES AND  
INDUSTRY. MAJOR ABEBE'S ONGOING POSITION AS COMMISSIONER OF  
PENSIONS, PLUS SPECIAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSIGNMENT, PLACES HIM  
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IN IMPORTANT POSITION IN NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

5. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS:

A. PROGRAM EMPHASIS MUST BE GIVEN TO VISITING SOCIAL SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT IN WASHINGTON AND RE REGIONAL CENTERS. AS MAJOR ABEBE IS ALSO HEARING CASES DAILY AS COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS, HE SHOULD OBSERVE ACTIVITIES OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BODIES (ESPECIALLY QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS).

B. VISIT UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WHOSE FIELD ARE SOCIAL WELFARE.

C. MEET JUDGES AND LEGAL SCHOLARS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DUE PROCESS OF LAW IN BOTH REGULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS.

D. VISIT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND DISCUSS THEIR WELFARE PROGRAMS.

E. VISIT CONGRESSMEN AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STAFFERS INVOLVED WITH OVERSIGHT OF SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM.

F. VISIT PROPER AGENCIES TO DISCUSS MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE PENSION AND DISABILITY PROGRAMS.

6. MAJOR ABEBE HAS RELATIVES IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, AND WISHES THAT CITY INCLUDED IN HIS TOUR. HE HAS NO OTHER PREFERENCES RE CITIES, BUT SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO VISIT CITIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF USA (INCLUDING FLORIDA AS HE WISHES VISIT SPACE CENTER).

7. MAJOR ABEBE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT DR. JAMES PAUL, DEAN (OR FORMER DEAN), RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL -- ABEBE KNEW PAUL IN ADDIS.

8. MAJOR ABEBE HAS KEEN INTEREST IN THEATER AND DRAMA AND WISHES VISIT SCENIC/TOURIST CENTERS.  
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